

WOMAN SPY'S CASE PUTS REPUTATIONS IN PERIL AT PARIS

Mata-Hari, Executed in 1917, Enjoyed Friendship of Certain Highly Placed Officials.

PARIS, Dec. 8.—Uneasiness, perhaps apprehension, has been provoked in certain high circles of society and politics by the decision of the newspaper *Liberte* to publish the full details of the case of Mata-Hari, the handsome Dutch-Javaese dancer and adventuress, who at the dawn of Oct. 15, 1917, was taken in an automobile from St. Lazare Prison to the Parade Ground at Vincennes, where she was shot to death as a spy.

The uneasiness with which the *Liberte's* decision is received brings to mind the trial of Mme. Steinheil, who was acquitted of the murder of her husband and stepmother. In the course of that trial the names of some of the most eminent persons in France were bandied, including that of a President of the Republic.

Mata-Hari has been galvanized into life by the production of a brilliant drama, "The Red Dancing Girl," to which all Paris is flocking. The play is based on the Dutch-Javaese "charmer of men" but it paints her in the most sympathetic colors. In the final scene she, a weeping, pathetic figure, is dragged before unrelenting judges whom the audiences of to-day are disposed to condemn rather than the prisoner.

The *Liberte*, in its opening article by Major Mazard, who had charge of the Mata-Hari case in a military-judicial capacity, says it will avoid, wherever possible, mention of well known names. But as everybody knows, Mata-Hari and her semi-nude Nautch dancing were extremely popular in fashionable circles, and many distinguished soldiers, politicians and leaders of society were accustomed to visit her at her villa at Neuilly.

The purpose of the newspaper's revelation is to put an end to German propaganda on the film in Europe and America; a propaganda which seeks to place Mata-Hari on the same pedestal as the heroic English nurse, Edith Cavell, whom the Germans executed. This propaganda was so open and notorious that M. Jules Cambon, then General Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said of it:

"The German audacity in daring to compare Mata-Hari with Edith Cavell is a woman respectable and respected and devoted to charitable work. She was shot for aiding Belgian soldiers to escape to Holland. This in German eyes may be a crime, but not one that endangers her army."

Mata-Hari was a courtesan. It was proved she was a spy and the center of a spying system. Her correspondence showed that she received money from Berlin. She herself admitted that she was one of Germany's chief spies in France who used the relations she had been able to make by her mode of life. She merited no indulgence. No comparison is possible between charity and spying."

The *Liberte* points out that Mata-Hari was the most dangerous spy who was caught during the entire war, that she caused innumerable French casualties, and that she was, in a sense, convicted out of her own mouth. The *Liberte* makes public for the first time testimony taken during her trial.

For instance, she admitted that she left Germany for the Allied countries after being numbered on the German list of spies as "Ca 41." Mata-Hari, who was "very tall, olive skinned, not beautiful, but wonderfully magnetic and handsome," played an exciting and successful game in the capitals of Europe for many years. First as the chateau of a diplomatist, then as an army officer, then as a banker, but always back to the diplomatist, where she found her element in high intrigues with nations as the stakes.

She joined an ambulance at Vitte, near Nancy, and proceeded to the front, where she remained seven months. During all that time she was in communication with the head of the German espionage service at Amsterdam. This she admitted during her trial, but explained, unblushingly, that it was only because she was his mistress.

"The truth is," said Mata-Hari, according to the *Liberte*. "I went to the front so that I might be near a Russian officer, Maroff, who really was the only man I ever loved." "But you passed all your time with our aviators," interjected the Judge of the court martial. "You got to know where they intended to land our agents behind the German lines. Then you advised the Germans. Directly you killed dozens of our information agents; indirectly, you caused the death of innumerable French soldiers."

Mata-Hari was the daughter of a wealthy Dutch planter on the island of Java, and was born about forty years ago. Her name was Zelle. Her mother, a native Javaese, was named Mata-Hari. When she was eleven years old her mother ran away from her father and took her from Java to Burma, where in a temple she was pledged to celibacy, and be-

Mata Hari, Dancer and Spy, Executed at Paris in 1917.



POLICEMAN SAVES WOMEN AND BABIES IN BROOKLYN FIRE

Carries Seven Kiddies and Their Mothers Down Ladder and Aids in Other Rescues

Three women, seven children and two men were rescued early this morning from a burning building at No. 1812 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn. It is a three-story structure. On the ground floor a hardware business is conducted in the name of Meyer Wolfin by his widow, who lives on the floor above with her five children and her cousin, Joshua Wolfin. On the top floor Mrs. Wolfin lives alone.

Last night the Wolfins had four guests, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Willner and their two children, Sally and Morris, eight and four years old. These four stayed all night. Shortly after 8 o'clock this morning Joshua Wolfin was awakened by the odor of smoke. A fire that started in the basement had cut off the stairway and swept up an air shaft to the top floor.

Wolfin threw open a window and shouted for help. Mrs. Wolfin got her children ready—Harry, George, Rachel and Morris, three to twelve years old.

The shouts of Wolfin brought Patrolman John Brandt and he turned in an alarm. Before the arrival of fire apparatus Brandt had found a ladder long enough to reach the second floor window.

From the floor above Mrs. Wolfin was screaming for help. Brandt yelled to her to keep her head out in the

fresh air and wait for the fire department. He climbed his ladder and, one by one, brought down all the children, then the women. Finally the men came down, and it was just then that Hook and Ladder No. 147 arrived.

Mrs. Wolfin had disappeared from her window. Brandt showed the firemen where she had been, and in a moment a ladder was up. Fireman John Crawford went up, groped through the smoke and found the woman semi-conscious on the floor. He carried her down and she was soon revived.

The cause of the fire was not learned. The loss is estimated at \$5,000.

NINE MORE IN INTRODUCED AT LUNCHEON AT THE RITZ. Mrs. Wickliffe Jones of No. 25 East 90th Street gave a luncheon yesterday at the Ritz-Carlton to introduce her daughter, Miss Dorothy Ross, whose father is one of the directors of the Rockefeller Foundation. The guests, sixty in number, included the Misses Nina Chastillon, Emily Billings, Nina Ryan, Millicent Barnard, Joan Douglas, Ethel Stewart, Isabel

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REPRESENTATIVE FLOOD DEAD. WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Representative Henry D. Flood, Democrat, of the Tenth Virginia District, died at his home here to-day of heart disease. He had been ill for several weeks. His death occurred shortly before noon.

COURAGE. (From the Detroit Free Press.) "It is he courageous" "I'll say so. He umpired a ball game once and called a man out at the plate who was bringing in the winning run for the home team."

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came a dancer.

At twelve she was immured into the awful life of the girl dancers in the temple, and at fourteen she ran away with a British Army officer, a baronet, and became his wife. In their home in Calcutta a son and daughter were born to them. When the boy was eight years old he was killed by poison administered by a servant, in revenge.

When the mother was in possession of the proof against the servant, a gardener, she called him before her, ordered him to kneel and then shot him to death. She was arrested, but the influence of her husband prevented her trial. She fled from India with her daughter and reached Holland, where she placed the child in a convent.

Mata-Hari then went to Paris, where, penniless, she obtained an engagement to give the dances on a public stage that she had given in the temple in Burma. Her success in Paris was immediate.

Soon she was appearing in Berlin, Vienna and London, where she was equally popular.

A certain high German diplomatist who passed much of his time in Paris

installed her in a sumptuous home at Neuilly-sur-Seine, a suburb of Paris, where, being jealous, he kept such a close guard upon her that she tired of the restraint, ran away and became the close friend of a Frenchman who had been Minister of Finance. From him she transferred her transitory affections to his brother-in-law, the manager of a Paris bank, and he spent so much money on her in two years that he was sent to prison for embezzlement.

Then Mata-Hari returned to the German diplomatist, and she was with him when the war started. It is believed that the bank manager, knowing of her relations with the German, urged the French secret police to watch her as a spy.

She was followed to a town in England where the famous British tanks were being made, and there a young British officer connected with the building of the tanks fell under her magnetic sway. She was followed when she associated herself with a man long "shadowed" by the French as a German agent in Spain. It also was shown that through her efforts the Germans were able to make a gas with which to combat the tanks.

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